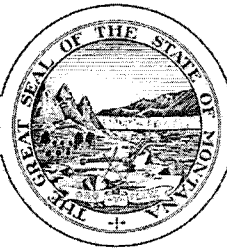


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



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WATER POLICY INTERIM
COMMITTEE 2017-18

Memorandum

July 17, 2018

Exhibit 12

To: DNRC Water Resources Division

From: Jan Langel, Division Administrator

Date: June 27, 2018

Re: Policy statement regarding the provision of water right mailing lists to the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Pursuant to § 85-2-112(3), MCA, the Department shall "establish and keep in its Helena office a centralized record system of all existing rights and a public record of permits, certificates, claims of existing rights, applications, and other documents filed in its office under [the Water Use Act]." Further, pursuant to § 85-2-112(4), the Department shall "cooperate with, assist, advise, and coordinate plans and activities with the federal, state, and local agencies in matters relating to [the Water Use Act]."

The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (DFWP) has requested that the Department provide assistance to DFWP by generating mailing lists of water right holders on specific sources. DFWP's use of any mailing list will be limited to sending written communication to water right holders of record regarding DFWP's plans to make call on its water rights pursuant to the Montana Water Use Act and the prior appropriation doctrine.

All information to be included on such a list is publicly available and accessible through the Department's water right query system. Therefore, it is the policy of the Department to work with DFWP to fulfill its reasonable requests for mailing lists of water right holders.

All requests for mailing lists from DFWP should be made in writing to the Water Rights Bureau Chief, who will work with Department staff to fulfill such requests as time allows.